

**Remarks**

Claims 1-3 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,458,349 to Aichelmann. As the Examiner will note by reference to the amendments made above, those claims have been canceled without prejudice, and therefore this grounds for rejection falls away.

With respect to the remaining claims, since those claims were either indicated as being allowable or were allowed by the Examiner in the official action, and given the fact that, where appropriate, the allowable claims have been converted to independent format, it is believed that all the claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

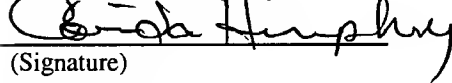
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July 30, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

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(Name of Person Signing)



(Signature)

July 30, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,



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